



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

RHODE ISLAND ETHICS COMMISSION

40 Fountain Street
Providence, RI 02903
(401) 222-3790 (Voice/TT)
Fax Number: 222-3382

April 29, 2008

**NOTICE OF "CLASS EXCEPTION" WORKSHOP
AND
REQUEST FOR COMMENT**

The Rhode Island Ethics Commission invites you to provide oral or written information and comments concerning possible changes to the Code of Ethics' "class exception" found at R.I. Gen. Laws § 36-14-7(b). After receiving substantial feedback from the public over the last year, the Ethics Commission is continuing its review of this section of the Code and considering whether it would benefit from some form of amendment.

As you may know, the Code of Ethics prohibits a public official or employee from taking any official action that will result in a financial benefit or detriment to him/herself, his/her family members, employers or business associates. See R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 36-14-5(a) and 7(a). Notwithstanding this prohibition, the Code's class exception allows an official or employee to take such an official action if the resulting benefit or detriment accrues to the official, his/her family member, employer or business associate:

as a member of a business, profession, occupation or group, or of any significant or definable class of persons within the business, profession, occupation or group, to no greater extent than any other similarly situated member of the business, profession, occupation or group, or of the significant and definable class of persons within the business, profession, occupation or group.

The Ethics Commission will hold a public workshop concerning the class exception on **Tuesday, June 3, 2008 at 9:00 a.m.** Any person may attend this workshop to comment or provide information, either for or against any changes to the class exception. Additionally, the Commission will consider any written comments or information received at its offices at the above address, or via email to comment@ethics.state.ri.us by May 27, 2008.

For further information, please contact Commission Staff Attorneys Jason Gramitt or Esme Devault at (401) 222-3790.